

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)      Muffler assembly used for a boat or vehicle, said muffler assembly being installed between the engine and the engine exhaust discharge point of said boat or vehicle, said muffler assembly having an exhaust entry pipe, a generally permanent outer housing and a removable and replaceable internal core assembly which is inserted into and removed from said permanent outer housing, said muffler assembly and said internal core assembly having guide and positioning elements to correctly position said internal core assembly within said outer housing, said removable and replaceable internal core assembly having an inlet entrance which connects directly to said exhaust entry pipe of said muffler assembly and an outlet pipe which outlet pipe connects directly to said exhaust entry pipe such that said engine exhaust of said boat or vehicle moves directly from said exhaust entry pipe into said replaceable internal core assembly and thence into said outlet pipe, said engine exhaust expanding in an expansion chamber within said internal core assembly and between said exhaust entry pipe and said outlet pipe.

Claim 2 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes a sound reduction element or a filter element to reduce sound emanating from said engine and to reduce engine contamination from said discharge of said muffler assembly.

Claim 3 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes only sound reduction elements.

Claim 4 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as

in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes only filter elements.

Claim 5 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes filter and sound reduction elements.

Claim 6 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said guide and positioning elements include said exhaust entry pipe and a complementary female pipe being said inlet entrance of said replaceable internal core assembly.

Claim 7 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 1 wherein said internal core assembly includes a backing plate and wherein said backing plate forms a sealing relationship with said housing.

Claim 8 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 7 wherein said sound reducing element or filter element is connected to said backing plate.

Claim 9 (previously presented)      Muffler assembly as in claim 8 and further comprising a threaded connection between said internal core assembly and said housing.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended) A cartridge for insertion into a muffler casing, said cartridge containing at least one exhaust treatment element and being sealed prior to installation in said muffler casing, said muffler casing having an engine exhaust inlet, said cartridge containing an entrance for the ingress of exhaust from an engine and an exitway for the egress of said exhaust following treatment of said exhaust within said cartridge, said entrance of said cartridge being operable to be connected directly to said engine exhaust inlet of said muffler casing and said exitway being connected directly to said entrance of said cartridge and allowing exit of said exhaust from said muffler casing.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A cartridge as in claim 19 wherein said cartridge is enclosed by a gas tight enclosure.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A cartridge as in claim 20 and further comprising retention means to secure said cartridge within said muffler casing during operation of said engine and entry of exhaust from said engine into said cartridge.

Claim 22 (previously presented) A cartridge as in claim 21 wherein said at least one treatment element comprises a catalyst acting on said exhaust.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A cartridge as in claim 21 wherein said at least one treatment element utilises power applied to said cartridge.

Claim 24 (previously presented) A cartridge as in claim 21 and further comprising an end cap to secure said cartridge within said casing and to act on said cartridge during operation of said cartridge and casing.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)